

The Virginia Citizen.

DEMOCRATIC WEEKLY.
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All communications or business letters should be addressed to the VIRGINIA CITIZEN, Irvington, Va., to receive prompt attention.

W. R. ROWE, OFFICE MANAGER.

Friday, June 18, 1909.

POOR OYSTER SEASON.

The Baltimore papers have told us that Maryland, like the other States, went through the past season the most disastrous one in years. They, as all fair minds, admit that it was not from a scarcity of oysters but from the general business depression. Here are some extracts from those papers:

From a monetary viewpoint the season just ending was not a success. This was not due, it is said, to any falling off in the supply of oysters, but the result of the general business depression. Those who make it a business to catch oysters are complaining bitterly of their lack, not on the oyster beds, but in the market. Throughout the season dozens of cargoes were brought to this market by boatmen who could only dispose of their catches at a loss. Before the season was half over many of those who have for years made it a business to catch and freight oysters were compelled to abandon the trade for some other more profitable occupation. —Baltimore News.

There is reason to believe that there were not sold during the past eight months from Maryland bottoms one-sixth the quantity of oysters which annually were marketed during the period when there were more than one hundred packing houses in Baltimore handling the mollusks. But, notwithstanding the fact that the Maryland yield has been so vastly reduced, there has been very general complaint among oystermen that prices have ranged low. It is not difficult to understand why the bulk of the Maryland oyster crop placed upon the market during the past season failed to command satisfactory prices. There are two apparent reasons: first, a great many of the lots offered for sale were just as small as the law will allow them to be. Large sized oysters—"selects"—have brought good prices during the past season, as during other seasons. The second reason is that oysters marketed from the farmed bottoms of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Virginia are all selects. The oyster farmer does not waste his crop by shipping it at a half developed stage. And these cultivated oysters are driving the inferior natural yield from the interior markets.

DIVING FOR OYSTERS.

Dividing for oysters must have been a very old trick, as Homer, who lived probably 3,000 years ago, refers to such a custom. Patroklos, having struck his antagonist in the forehead with a stone, the latter fell headfirst from his chariot, when his conqueror exclaimed: "Out on it, how nimble a man, how lightly he dives! Yea, if perchance he were on the teeming deep, this man would satisfy many by seeking for oysters, leaping from the ship, even were it stormy weather." —Verily among the Trojans there be diving men.

A Virginia judge says he knows fifty citizens who keep more than two quarts of whiskey in their homes at all times. Lucky judge. —Baltimore News.

Keeping the two quarts is harmless in itself, the trouble is that it will not keep, but leaks out. Half a gallon of corn juice safely locked in the cupboard is innocuous, but the mischief is in frequent drawing of the cork. No, Judge, they don't keep it.

People claiming to be handicapped by circumstances should read the story, recently published, of an Ohio lawyer who lost both hands in a railway accident, and who has learned to write with open between his teeth—learned so well that he takes down answers in court examinations. He writes legibly and with great rapidity.

Don't sit on the spring sofa in a storm, for Miss Morr, of Oklahoma was doing this with her beau during a severe thunder storm when lightning struck the house, short circuited with the steel springs of the sofa, threw the young man up to the ceiling, and he failed to land in the lady's lap on descending.

NORFOLK city council has just made an appropriation of \$200,000 for a new high school. Irvington citizens cannot hope to do a lot towards defraying the cost of improving our new high school building.

SEVENTY young men of a western college have been sentenced to refrain from talking to the girls for a week. At last the girls have their chance.

WINS OYSTER SUIT.

The Supreme Court Again Upholds the Commission of Fisheries.

The Supreme Court last week reversed the Circuit Court of Nansemond which latter had declared unconstitutional a statute that empowers the Commission of Fisheries to remove stakes of planters encroaching upon the natural rocks. W. W. Old and Son were counsel for the State and Jeffries and Wolcott for the planters.

The case was the suit of the Hampton Roads Oyster Company against the Board of Fisheries, and was of more than a year's standing. The Oyster Company, after having been given time to remove their oysters from natural grounds staked in in the Nansemond river, refused to remove their stakes. Upon the order of Chairman Lee the steamer Commodore Maury pulled the stakes and threw the ground open to tongs. Then suit was brought against the Board in Nansemond court, which judgment was against the Board. The case was appealed by the State, and last week the Supreme Court, in an opinion of thirty-five pages, unanimously reversed Judge McLemore, completely vindicating the Board of Fisheries and declaring the latter had authority to protect the public oyster grounds from invasions of all kinds.

While the Board has spent more than a thousand dollars in defending this suit, it is well worth it since there would have been no statute to protect the Baylor Survey if this one had been held unconstitutional.

The Commission of Fisheries has been eminently successful in its important and costly suits, winning all three—the ones of E. C. Jordan on the Eastern Shore; W. S. Boneville in Warwick and this Nansemond case, all of vital importance to the people of Tidewater.

MR. TUCKER IN MATHEWS.

[From Mathews Journal.]

It would be foolish to deny that Mr. Tucker's speech on yesterday was a good one or to say that he did not handle the subjects upon which he touched cleverly and ingeniously, but it is also true that he has a speech dealt more with his own claims and less with insinuations against and denunciations of his opponent it would have in all probability gained him more votes. It is rather remarkable for a man to state that he believes another man to be honest and then insinuate that he has done things of which he is not honest would be guilty. Such action is inconsistent to say the least, but this is what Mr. Tucker did on Tuesday.

It is possible to injure a man more by insinuation, innuendo and sneering remarks than could possibly be done by bold accusations, which he could deny and prove false. This seems to be Mr. Tucker's special forte and it seems that Judge Mann hewed close to the line when he said in answer to one of Mr. Tucker's challenges:

"I do not wish the Senate Journal to be regarded as a sealed book, as you have taken occasion to state. I have no objection whatever to your quoting from it; but I do most emphatically object to, and protest against your incorrect stating the facts to my prejudice as you have frequently done."

POLITICAL.

If Judge Mann has the support of the machine people, the temperance people and the liquor people, as is charged by Mr. Tucker's friends, how in the name of the seven blind goats of Goshen does Mr. Tucker expect to be elected. —Mathews Journal.

While not feeling inclined to take any very active part in a fight between two worthy Democrats for the gubernatorial nomination, this paper has not failed to indicate in terms that have been unmistakable that it would like to see Judge Mann the next Governor of Virginia. His service to the cause of temperance, when that cause was not as popular as it is today, is one of the merits leading us to believe that he merits substantial recognition. —Gloucester Tribune.

It is probably because James Trehy, the "boss" of Norfolk, is supporting Judge Mann that Mr. Tucker is charging a league with the "whiskey ring bosses." But he must show better proof than that. Mr. Trehy makes public reply as follows: "Judge Mann has been my friend. He is for local option and so am I. We are all for local option and so is Judge Mann. What little influence I have I shall use with my friends to support Judge Mann." Further than the statement quoted Mr. Trehy refused to talk. He said he did not see why anyone he should express publicly his convictions on the matter, as he did nothing the public was interested in. When told that everybody wanted to know, Mr. Trehy smiled—that's all.

Out of the maze of evidence pro and con in behalf of the respective candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination the glaring fact is paramount that none other than Judge Mann is entitled to the honor. As in 1905 this gentleman of the old school began his campaign on the solid rocks of the merit system, asking no favors save those he was honestly and justly entitled to for the many years of service to his party, and especially for the many years of his activity in the moral uplift of the people of his State. His record and the impression he has made in public life caused such profound conviction among his constituents throughout the State, that he alone was entitled to the honor that his opponent felt it necessary to begin a campaign of personalities and mud slinging in order to muster around him the coterie of malcontents who are expected to furnish what will be termed on the final reckoning day a complimentary vote for Mr. Tucker. —Accomac News.

JUDGE MANN ON SOUTHSIDE.

In addition to his appointment at Urbana on June 24th, Judge Wm. Hodges Monday, court day, and at two other points in Essex county the 22nd and 23rd. He will speak at some Middlesex point the afternoon or night of 24th, and the following day in Mathews county and later in Gloucester.

THE REUNION.

Veterans and Ladies in the Greatest Event They Ever Held.

Clad in the rough gray homespun which they wore in the sixties and carrying the ancient rifles, 10,000 United Confederate Veterans marched at Memphis, Tenn., in what was probably the last big parade in which they will ever participate. Some of them wore straggling beards as gray as their uniforms, and there were many empty sleeves.

The heat was intense—the culmination of three days of the warmest weather Memphis has had in years. The sun beat down pitilessly upon the asphalted streets and was thrown back into the faces of the heavily clad veterans as they marched along. Commanders of divisions and brigades directed that the older and feeble members of their commands should drop out. But officers reported that they could find no men old enough or feeble enough to take advantage of the indulgence.

Bands from all over the South, 25 of them, were interspersed here and there through the parade, and when steps lagged or aged legs trembled, stirring notes of "Dixie," or "Maryland," or "Maryland," were sufficient to reinvigorate the marchers. Everywhere were flags—the stars and bars of the lost cause.

GIRLS HEADED DIVISIONS.

At the head of each division rode the sponsors and maids of honor. Southern girls, wore huge crimson shoulder-knots that told of their proud position. The uniformed girls (some from Lancaster) rode in floats and created considerable applause. Following the regular divisions came the survivors of Furrer's famous cavalry corps, gray clad, with the flaunting yellow trimmings which denoted their arm of the service.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, several thousand strong, closed the parade. They were headed by the commanding officers and their staffs on horse, and here again Virginia came in for great applause.

SALUTED GENERAL GRANT.

In the reviewing stand, in the place of honor, surrounded by the Governors of three States, stood a heavy, athletic-looking man in civilian garb, his closely trimmed black beard sprinkled with gray. The man was Gen. Frederick D. Grant, United States Army, son of the Federal commander who received the surrender of the Southern army at Appomattox. Gen. Grant shook hands with Gen. Evans, head of the Confederate Veterans, and hundreds of the old vets.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION.

Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, delivered the address of welcome to the Veterans and it was eloquently responded to by Judge Theodore S. Garrett, of Norfolk.

Immediately before Governor Patterson spoke, Mrs. J. Griff Edwards, of Portsmouth, Va., commander-in-chief of the choir, sang "Dixie". This sweet-faced young lady, with a voice of wondrous charm, carrying in her hand the silken banner of the Lost Cause, glided to the speakers' stand. In her uniform of gray, wearing the three stars of a colonel, she stood a moment; then, before she could give the signal to the orchestra, nearly every man on the stage stood up. Heels clicked together with military precision, and hands rose sharply to forehead in military salute. But it was when her fresh sweet voice trilled out the words of the famous battle hymn that the big demonstration of the reunion broke out. As the last words died away there was one of the old yells that fairly split the atmosphere. Men threw their hats into the air, hugged one another, and more than one of them broke into tears which they made no attempt to hide. The convention was a sea of waving Stars and Bars, and the music of the band was drowned by the cheers.

In the afternoon session of the choir ladies and Daughters of Confederacy Mrs. Edwards received another ovation. In fact it was enthusiasm wherever she appeared. This convention was presided over by W. McDonald Lee, of Irvington, Va., who made the response to the welcome from the city of Memphis.

Mrs. Edwards' party of twenty-two Virginians made the trip and return in a special car, stopping off a day to visit Lookout Mountain and the battlefield of Chickamauga.

RICHMOND'S NEW BRAND.

Richmond has a new brand of Democrats. They are the offspring of the Democratic committee of that city and a sort of go-as-you-please kind. "The person voting their ticket declares himself a member of the Democratic party," and that is all that is required of him. This is the only pledge he has to make and it matters not, it would seem, how far he may have wandered from the Democratic fold in the past or what his political delinquencies may be in the future. He is bound by no pledge, we take it, to give his support to the Democratic party, city, State or national unless it suits him, and can even repudiate the candidate of a primary or convention in which he has participated, if he desires to do so. This new brand of a Democrat may be of the simple kind, a better Democrat it may be than those remote from the State capital, but to those living at a distance there is something queer about him that does not commend him to us and which suggests that he might be induced upon a very shallow pretence "to give aid and comfort to the enemy." —Peninsular Enterprise.

FISH PLENTIFUL.

Fish has been so plentiful in the Chesapeake that fish herring have been sold for \$1.50 the 1,000. Captain Howard, of the Maryland oyster navy, says that buck shad sold on the bay for 8 cents each. He saw 90,000 herring sold for above price per thousand.

The catch of trout and blue fish, and sea mullets along the Virginia Capes and Chesapeake Bay have been phenomenal. About the middle of the month one might buy at the local market fine fresh trout from 6 to 12 pounds for a quarter of a dollar. The fish were so plentiful that the netters decided to let up to ease the market. —The Oysterman.

NEW STEAMBOAT LINE.

To Open New Field on The Western Shore of Virginia.

A company is contemplating putting a steamer on the Chesapeake Bay to run from points on the Western Shore of Virginia to Crisfield, Md., and thence to Baltimore. Agents of the company have been in Crisfield looking over the situation and making arrangements for wharf rights and privileges. The promoters say they have ample capital and already have a boat.

The boat will touch points on the Rappahannock river, where at present on boats stop. The Western shore of Virginia is a rich territory, but the people, lacking shipping facilities, have had to come to Crisfield and hire sailing vessels to transport their produce to the Baltimore markets.

Those back of the new enterprise are Western Shore men of means and say they are assured enough business to make the route a profitable investment. The new company expects to put on the steamer at least by July 15.

MILLIONS TO TIDEWATER.

[Richmond Times-Dispatch.]

It is true that the oyster and fish industry concerns Tidewater more than any other section of Virginia, but the press and public of Tidewater mistake the temper of the times if they feel that this industry is one in which the whole State is not vitally interested. Any business that can produce from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000 of wealth for the citizens of Virginia is a matter that concerns the whole State. While, therefore, a convention of delegates from Tidewater alone would doubtless help to clear the way for the final settlement of this matter, the administration by the Tidewater representatives in the Legislature during the past twenty years unfortunately does not give much reason to hope that a broad, intelligent and inclusive policy will be evolved by the proposed convention. Judging by the experience of other states, we believe that the best possible course for Virginia to pursue is to get disinterested experts to formulate a plan for the protection of the oysters and for the development of that industry, and submit their findings to the whole Legislature.

TUCKER AND HIS PAPERS UNFAIR.

[Mathews Journal.]

It seems that Judge Mann has more to fear from the news columns of several State papers than he has from their editorial opposition. In the Eastern Shore Herald of last week there appeared a whole column of Tucker advertisement which was only marked with the date and number of times it was to be run. All newspaper men know of course that this is an advertisement but not one in a hundred of the general public would recognize it as such but would accept it as a statement of facts. Matter of this sort should be plainly marked advertisement at the top so that the public may accept it at its value.

Not that this will probably injure Judge Mann, for while the friends of Mr. Tucker are scoring Judge Mann for being a machine candidate, this article to which we have referred set forth in triumphant manner an account of the desertion by some of the machine men who were formerly Mann men to the Tucker camp. This is consistent to sing the glad anthems of praise at the addition of a so-called machine man to the Tucker camp and at the same time strongly condemn Judge Mann because he is supported by the unholy machine. About as consistent as such a plea to the people who believe in local option to vote for him because Judge Mann stands for State-wide prohibition and his accusation which shortly followed that Judge Mann was in league with all the liquor dealers of the State. We trust that the rank and file of the people will not be deceived by any of these campaign bluffs but will vote their honest convictions as should all free men and good citizens.

OVATION AT BLACKSTONE.

Judge William Hodges Mann, candidate for governor, stopped off at Blackstone on his return from Hampton-Sydney College and addressed an audience of five or six hundred people in the Music Hall in the interest of his candidacy. He was introduced by W. Moncreau Gravatt as a Nottoway candidate to a Nottoway audience. The address which followed was splendidly adapted to the occasion and was enthusiastically received from beginning to end. There were many present not only from various sections of Nottoway, but from adjacent counties, Blackstone being a strategic political point.

Information is to the effect that the old Fourth district is waking up and rallying to Judge Mann in overwhelming numbers.

ECHOES OF THE STORM.

Reports from all over the state tell of much damage, both by water and lightning, Wednesday night and Thursday of last week.

Lightning struck a poplar tree in the yard of A. P. Garner, Irvington, Wednesday night of last week, and jumped from that to the well-house and dairy, which were badly damaged.

On Thursday afternoon of last week lightning struck a yoke of oxen belonging to Nathan Taylor, near Irvington, killing one and crippling the other. They were tied near a wire fence. John Davis, of White Stone, had his horse killed by lightning the same day.

A number of wells caved in from the effects of the heavy rains last week, among them being J. K. Leonard's and Geo. St. C. Smith's, at Irvington.

The dam at Clarke's mill, near Burgess Store, broke after the heavy rains last week, leaving a gap some hundred or more feet. Damage several hundred dollars.

The storm also swept away several mill dams in Middlesex county, entailing severe loss as well as inconvenience to farmers.

A piece of road near Wicomico Church suffered from the effects of a perfect landslide last week. Tons of earth were dislodged from the banks and completely closed up the gorge. Transportation has been blocked at this point.

HON. JNO. CURLETT REPLIES TO MR. RICE AND NEWS EDITORIAL.

CITIZENS OF RICHMOND AND LANCASTER COUNTIES.

He who handles pitch is sure to be defiled, and such I feel to be the case when I honor W. H. Rice with a reply to his vicious, ungentlemanly, and personal attack upon me in the News.

And the News does not publish undignified, unfair letters! To what depths our angelic editor has fallen—or does Rice pay for his article? The "Farnham" letter was written by a voter who has paid his poll taxes in Farnham District, will vote at Farnham and has always voted there; and the rest of Rice's misstatements are just on a par with this.

Had I known Mr. Rice would be so jealous, he should have sopped in the same bowl, assuaged his hunger and saved his spleen. He may go to dinner with me next time.

This State pays in revenue to the general government from our citizens about \$4,500,000 each year. My resolution provided for a return of 10 per cent, not to exceed \$500,000 to each state, for the benefit of military, volunteer-firemen, and soldiers who have served in any war. This would have drawn the support of all of these organizations—doubled our pension funds. It passed the House without a dissenting voice—old Confeds voting for it—and I AM GOING BACK to see it through.

As to renting out the natural oyster rocks, Mr. Rice is either woefully ignorant or willfully vile. Had I suggested I feel secure in saying I could have done this; any tidewater man could do it, but some tidewater men can't stop it. Every oysterman knows that since my term of service began they have not been called upon to send lawyers to Richmond to defend their interests at their own expense. I ask credit for THIS.

The Jordan bill (some years ago) passed the House by a large majority. It was talked to death in the Senate by J. Boyd Sears (talk some times counts). I again ask the oystermen WHO is opposing me—and WHO was behind the Jordan bill.

Now I have made it my business to see Mr. Rice and ask him if he meant to reflect upon the truth of my statements, and much to my surprise and gratification he denies any such intent or purpose on his part, simply stating that when I sent the bill for Brewer to Dr. Lewis I should have exercised better judgment, in which I cordially agree with him. I trust this statement will satisfy my friends as to what scores they would have me pursue in this matter. In regard to the editorial in N. N. News as to non-residents pursuing fishing in Virginia waters, I will say any insinuation that I ever favored any such law is absolutely false and contemptible. I was requested to state of all fish legislation by the president of this same association. I regarded these bills as vicious in many ways—I believe they are today violated as they stand, by some of the very people who were so anxious to secure their passage. Why not prosecute? After the bills had been introduced I opposed them, I was then requested by this same president to let them pass. I did so. Now I do not seek to represent my own ideas in Richmond, but the best interests of the two counties, dictated by the people at home, and by the people ALONE and not a bunch of politicians who seek to control a representative's every act.

The News says I do not criticize Mr. Wellford's report. You can't read a blank sheet of paper!

I have served faithfully, honestly—mistakes I may have made, but honest ones. I ask for your help—for your votes. Respectfully,

JNO. CURLETT.

Wheaton, Va.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

The President has sent a special message to Congress recommending an amendment to the Constitution conferring power to levy an income tax, and urges that a bill be passed so amending the present tariff regulations that all corporations and joint stock companies (except national banks) have an excise tax fixed of 2 per cent on their net income. He thinks that this will add at least \$25,000,000 to the revenues of the treasury.

The tariff bill is still under discussion in Congress, slow progress being made on the different sections of the measure. Confident predictions are made that the President will, in case the bill is not framed to make real downward revision and a reduction on the necessities of life, veto it. As essential differences exist between the Senate and the House bill (already passed) it is probable that the conference committee will make the reductions urged by existing conditions.

Does the average fisherman know how much the influence of the prevailing winds have to do with the average catch of fish? We wot not. We learn that on the coast of New South Wales there has been observed and fishermen have governed themselves accordingly. Let us cite some facts: In 1898 there was a general scarcity of fish, then afterwards up till 1901 they became gradually more abundant. Again in 1905 there was a scarcity of fish, but the following year they began to return in increasing numbers. Men began to look for the cause of these variations and they discovered it was the influence of winds from a certain quarter. This may enable us to predict with a measure of certainty, two or three years in advance, as to the prospects of the catch of fish. —The Oysterman.

TEMPERANCE.

Petersburg has voted "wet" by a decisive majority. If that suits Petersburg the rest of us will have to stand it. But, if you read the Richmond Times-Dispatch's special correspondence from that city the morning after the election you could not help feeling nauseated by the sensationally unfair treatment of the entire subject by the correspondent. Usurping the editorial prerogative, he made his paper virtually gloat over the "wet" victory. Nothing too savage could he say about the "dry" side of the case, and there was hardly good enough English to be found in which to sing the praises of the "wets." We do not recall ever seeing a more biased report of any event in the public prints.

CONFUSION OF TERMS.

"When the liquor question comes up," says the VIRGINIA CITIZEN, of Irvington, "is not local option accepted as meaning one who not only favors local option, but who votes dry when opportunity presents? It does up this way."

That seems to be the popular understanding. Local option and prohibition in the vocabulary of most persons are interchangeable terms. But they are not so in fact. Local option in this connection denotes the right of each and every community to decide by popular election whether or not the liquor traffic shall be prohibited. A local optionist is a man who believes in that principle. And he may be either a prohibitionist or an anti-prohibitionist. A local optionist may with perfect consistency vote either "dry" or "wet." —Newport News Times-Herald.

SWINDLING NEGROES.

[Gloucester Tribune.]

One of the most serious swindling games yet operated in this section has recently been worked upon the credulous negroes of Warwick county. A negro calling himself J. J. Works and who was also known as Walker and Cooke recently passed through the county selling to elderly negroes pension checks, representing that all ex-slaves were to be paid pensions and that he was authorized to pay same. He gave his victims checks ranging from \$5 to \$800, signed C. C. Cook, telling them that on a certain date they would be paid at the Newport News Custom House. He is said to have collected in fees sums ranging from \$1 to \$5 from about twenty old colored men. The county officers are on his trail.

The fight for universal justice will not be completely won until the mule is petted more and the dog less. The mule is the greatest worker in the animal kingdom, but all it gets credit for is its stubbornness and kicking.—Exchange.

A CARD.

At the request of many friends I announce myself a candidate for nomination to the House of Delegates for Lancaster and Richmond Counties subordinate to the Democratic Primary.

R. CARTER WELFORD.

CITIZENS OF THE COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND RICHMOND.

As a candidate for re-nomination to the House of Delegates, subject to the Democratic primary, I ask your aid. I shall not be able to call upon you personally, but shall deem it my duty to meet any and all opponents upon